

RPFMA

Rubber and Plastics Footwear Manufacturers Association

July 30, 2012

The Honorable Dave Camp
Chairman
House Ways and Means Committee
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Sander Levin
Ranking Member
House Ways and Means Committee
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Camp and Representative Levin:

On behalf of the Rubber and Plastic Footwear Manufacturers Association (RPFMA), I'm writing to alert you that we have worked out an agreement with the Outdoor Industry Association to drop our opposition to a series of miscellaneous tariff bills introduced by Rep. Harris and Rep. Carney. The bills I refer to are: H.R. 4926, H.R. 4927, H.R. 4928; H.R. 4929, H.R. 4502, H.R. 4503, H.R. 4504, and H.R. 4505.

We have also worked out an agreement with representatives for Ann Taylor to drop our objections to H.R. 5164, and H.R. 5166, introduced by Rep. Maloney.

RPFMA agrees to drop its objections to these bills contingent upon you, Rep. Harris, Rep. Carney, and Rep. Maloney agreeing to accept language changes in the form of new legislation that we can review. We understand that the next step in this process is to compile the various individual bills into a single, large MTB bill, and that the legislative language changes to these bills would be made at that point. We respectfully ask to be included in this process so we can review the new legislation, to ensure adherence to this agreement.

We appreciate your attention to this matter, and look forward to working with you and your staffs during this process. The compromise language I've referred to is below. Thank you.

Agreed upon language for Harris and Carney bills:

"Men's footwear (except vulcanized footwear and footwear with waterproof molded **or vulcanized bottoms**, including bottoms comprising an outer sole and all or part of the upper, and except footwear designed to be protective that is incomplete in its condition as imported), valued over \$24/pair, whose height from the bottom of the outer sole to the top of the upper does not exceed 8 inches (20.32 cm), designed to be worn in lieu of, but not over, other footwear as a protection against water, oil, grease or chemicals or cold or inclement weather where such protection includes protection against water that is imparted by the use of a coated or laminated textile fabric."

Agreed upon language for Maloney bills:

HR 5164: Nonenumerated footwear for women, other than house slippers, with uppers of textile materials and outer soles consisting entirely of textile materials, valued at \$13/pair or higher (provided for in subheading 6405.20.90) Free. No change. On or before 12/31/2015.

HR 5166: Nonenumerated footwear for women with uppers of rubber or plastics, outer soles of leather or composition leather, and applied heels, valued at \$25/pair or higher (provided for in 6405.90.90) Free. No change. On or before 12/31/2015.

Sincerely,

James A. Hunter
Government Relations Director
Arent Fox, LLP